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SOURCE Szabad Nap

STRESSES RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTY DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

Karoly Kiss

The task of the Central Disciplinary Committee of the Hungarian Workers' Party is to safeguard party discipline. The committee was established 4½ years ago and, in the beginning, it lacked experience.

It was found that many party secretaries and rank-and-file members were not familiar with party rules and regulations. This situation has been remedied through the discussion of rules and regulations at party membership meetings.

During the first year of the existence of the Central Disciplinary Committee, reports by members and their criticism of plant managers did not contribute to better work. In those days, sabotaging of party decrees was seldom a reason for disciplinary action. Most cases of disciplinary measures involved previous Fascist activity, treason committed in illegal party work prior to the liberation, and the exclusion of party members who were guilty of conspiratorial errors. Later, cases of corruption occurred, traceable to inflation. The committee handled a large number of cases in which the private lives of party members were opposed to Communist morality. Ideological discrepancies were left unnoticed, or, if they were noticed, higher organs concerned themselves with them.

A radical change was brought about by Matyas Rakosi's speech to the Central Leadership, on 10 February 1950. Improvements were made also by a later decree of the Central Committee which stated that three-to-five member disciplinary committees were to be elected from the membership in all counties, cities, and Budapest districts.

After the February session of the Central Leadership, party meetings became more lively and had more content. Rakosi pointed out the errors committed in the question of criticism and self-criticism. Great progress was made through increased criticism and self-criticism, but there is no reason to think that all is well.

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The Central Disciplinary Committee and its local organs attempt to investigate every complaint. The investigations show that most complaints contain objective criticism. These reports are very useful and are generally honest and constructive.

There were cases where criticism was resented. Some workers were transferred because they had pointed out errors and mistakes, while others were simply discharged because they had written to a higher party organ or to Szabad Nep.

Certain party secretaries were more "lenient" and declared that workers could send in critical reports if the secretaries were allowed to see them first. There were cases in which party members were excluded from the party because they sent in critical reports. In these cases, some old, forgotten error was looked up and disciplinary action initiated. The Central Disciplinary Committee started severe disciplinary action against party organs and those members of plant managements who stifled criticism of their actions.

The Central Disciplinary Committee fought everywhere against the stifling of criticism. It protected workers from persecution. As a result, the relationship between the party press and the working masses has been improved. The number of permanent correspondents of Szabad Nep has increased by 25 percent.

The number of cases which show lack of alertness in a certain segment of party membership is on the increase. The fact that the Rajk gang was able to carry out subversive activities for a long time and that the right-wing socialists can do harmful work in many industries shows that sufficient alertness is lacking.

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